

Remarks

A. Introduction

Claims 1-45 are pending.

B. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

Claims 12 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants amend claims 12 and 27, and the claims that depend thereon, in order to overcome the rejection.

C. Double Patenting

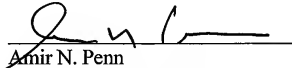
Claims 1, 12, 17, 27, and 29 of the present application were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/684,222, (hereinafter referred to as “the ‘222 application”). Claims 2, 5, 16, 18, 20, 28 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of copending ‘222 application. Claim 43 was provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 40 of copending ‘222 application. Claims 10 and 14 of the present application were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 6 of copending Application No. 10/684,208 (“the ‘208 application”). Claims 11, 15, and 26 of the present application were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of the ‘208 application.

Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

D. Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


Amir N. Penn
Registration No. 40,767
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200